AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A digital image production apparatus comprising:

a print engine;

a plurality of trays each of which is capable of accommodating different types of recording sheets;

a user interface; and

an electronic control system for controlling print processing, including control of supply of recording sheets from the trays in accordance with sheet specifications of print jobs,

wherein the control system has access to a memory which stores for each tray the type of recording sheets presently accommodated therein, and

wherein, when recording sheets of a type required for a job are not available in any of the trays, the control system:

indicates, through the user interface, the required type of recording sheet;

selects an eligible tray that can accommodate the required recording sheets;

invites, through the user interface, an operator to place recording sheets of the required type in the eligible tray; and

automatically, in response to receiving a confirmation signal which confirms that the operator has completed the requested action, ~~presumes~~ assumes that the installed recording sheets are of the required type and stores information specifying the required type of recording sheet in a location of the memory associated with said eligible tray.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, if at least one tray contains sheets of a type that is not needed for the current job nor any other job scheduled for processing so as to represent at least one non-targeted tray, the control system selects one of the at least one non-targeted trays as the eligible tray.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the confirmation signal is a signal indicating that a start button of the apparatus has been actuated.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the required type of recording sheet and the eligible tray are presented to the user in the form of a dialog on a display screen of the user interface.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further including means for replicating the user interface on a display screen of a workstation connected to the printer through a network.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein, when the workstation is online, the message indicating a request for loading recording sheets for a specific print job is forcibly offered to the user on the workstation, irrespective of whether or not a print monitor function is activated in the workstation.

RCS/REG/

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the apparatus is connected, through the network, with at least two user terminals, and wherein the message indicating the required type of recording sheet and the eligible tray is sent to at least two of said user terminals at different timings.

8. (Currently Amended) A digital image production apparatus comprising:

a print engine;

a plurality of trays each of which is capable of accommodating different types of recording sheets;

a user interface; and

an electronic control system for controlling print processing, including control of supply of recording sheets from the trays in accordance with sheet specifications of print jobs,

wherein the control system has access to a memory which stores for each tray the type of recording sheets presently accommodated therein, and

wherein, when recording sheets of a type required for a job are not available in any of the trays, the control system:

indicates, through the user interface, the required type of recording sheet and at least one eligible tray that could be used to accommodate the required recording sheets;

invites an operator to place the recording sheets of the required type in one of said eligible trays and to specify through the user interface the specific eligible tray he has filled; and

automatically, in response to a signal generated by the operator specifying said specific tray, ~~presumes~~ assumes that the installed recording sheets are of the required type and

stores information specifying the required type of recording sheet in a location of the memory

associated with said specific eligible tray.

9. (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein an eligible tray is a tray

containing sheets of a type that is not needed for the current job nor any other job scheduled for

processing, if any.

10. (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the signal generated by the

operator is a signal indicating that an eligible tray contains sheets and which is received after a

signal indicating that the same eligible tray was empty.

11. (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the required type of recording

sheet and the eligible trays are presented to the user in the form of a dialog window on a display

screen of the user interface.

12. (Previously Presented) A digital image production apparatus comprising:

a print engine;

a plurality of trays each of which is capable of accommodating different types of

recording sheets;

a user interface; and

an electronic control system for controlling print processing, including control of supply

of recording sheets from the trays in accordance with sheet specifications of print jobs,

wherein the control system has access to a memory which stores for each tray the type of

recording sheets presently accommodated therein, and

wherein, when recording sheets of a type required for a job are not available in any of the

trays, the control system:

indicates, through the user interface, the required type of recording sheet;

invites an operator to place recording sheets of the required type in one of said

trays and to specify through the user interface the specific tray he has filled; and

automatically, upon an operator command for the purpose from the user interface,

stores information specifying the indicated type of recording sheet in a location of the memory

associated with said specific tray.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said job is a job

that is about to start, and the control system, in response to receiving said confirmation signal,

also starts up print processing of the job.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said job is a job

that is about to start, and the control system, in response to receiving said confirmation signal,

also starts up print processing of the job.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said job is a job

that is about to start, and the control system, in response to receiving said confirmation signal,

also starts up print processing of the job.

RCS/REG/

16. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said job is a job that has been started, and the control system, in response to receiving said confirmation signal, also re-starts print processing of the job.

17. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said job is a job that has been started, and the control system, in response to receiving said confirmation signal, also re-starts print processing of the job.

18. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said job is a job that has been started, and the control system, in response to receiving said confirmation signal, also re-starts print processing of the job.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control system further stores characteristics identifying the type of sheet in a corresponding location of the memory.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the control system further stores characteristics identifying the type of sheet in a corresponding location of the memory.

RCS/REG/

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control system further stores

characteristics identifying the type of sheet in a corresponding location of the memory.